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12 September 1983

MEMORANDUM FOR: Members of the Workstation Environment
Working Group

FROM:

Chairman

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SUBJECT: Minutes of the 1 September WSEWG Meeting

1. The Workstation Environment Working Group of the CIA Information Systems Board held its fourth meeting on Thursday, September 1, 1983. Members and alternates attending were:

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Monitors Clarus Rice and [redacted] also attended, as did Roxanne [redacted]

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2. [redacted] sitting in for [redacted] started the meeting with a half-hour briefing on security issues relating to workstations. [redacted] handed out a copy of the draft [redacted] "Automatic Information Processing System Security"; excerpts from the Wang RFP; some notes on security policies regarding terminals; and a one page summary of security issues for workstations. These issues were the focus of [redacted] talk. They are:

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- Internal non-volatile memory;
- Switching terminals between mainframes and applications accessing information at different security levels;
- User authentication;
- Tamper detection;

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- Personal computers as workstations;
- PCs linked in networks;
- PCs used by NOCs.

25X1 3. [] observed that, from the user's point of view, many of these issues are not problems at all but are at the heart of the power and appeal of ADP. He wondered why we seem to have a double standard of security: we seem to demand much more security for information in computers than we do when it is on hard copy in a safe. This kicked off a lively discussion the outcome of which appeared to be general agreement that we ought to help the user avoid inadvertent compromises when this can be done without making the system substantially harder to use, but that elaborate measures to protect against a determined penetrator are often counter-productive and probably doomed anyway. [] wondered what the security implications were of locating workstations in vaulted versus non-vaulted areas. Just one was suggested: if the workstation has local storage, like a hard disk, it must be removable if the workstation is located in a non-vaulted area.

4. The draft minutes of the 25 August meeting were approved with some minor corrections.

25X1 5. The Group then began discussing the second revision of the draft outline for its interim report to the Board. There seemed to be general agreement that this outline was on target. [] suggested that a short caveat be added to the paper that there are important areas beyond its scope and that these should be addressed by someone someday. The Group agreed to adding this idea in section 3, Scope. A number of other ideas were presented, discussed, and fitted into the outline. Armour charged each member with thinking about drafting assignments, especially personal preferences for them, and that he hoped to complete discussion of the outline at the next meeting and assign drafting responsibilities for each section.

25X1 6. [] announced that he has arranged for a demonstration of Microsoft's new word processing software, "The Word." The demonstration will begin at 1000 on 13 September in Headquarters; [] will let us know the room number.

25X1 7. [] informed the Group that Mr. Briggs wonders whether the Group should have a professional word-processor operator on it, perhaps someone from or chosen by the DCI Secretarial MAG. The Group agreed that this is a good idea. [] is to find and propose a candidate.

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8. [] suggested that the Group invite [] of ODP/SPD to brief us on the technical feasibility of various short term options. The Group agreed; [] is to arrange the briefing.

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9. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned. The next meeting is to be held on Monday, 12 September, from 1000-1200 in room 3C28, Headquarters.

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